



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 9, 1997

### **H.R. 1658**

#### **Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act Amendments of 1997**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
on October 8, 1997*

#### **SUMMARY**

H.R. 1658 would amend the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act (the Striped Bass Act) to authorize appropriations of about \$1 million annually through 2000 for the management and conservation of striped bass, including studies. The act also would increase penalties for fishing for striped bass in state waters (zero to three miles offshore) during a federal moratorium.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1658 would cost \$1 million in 1998 and about \$3 million over the 1998-2000 period. H.R. 1658 could affect governmental receipts by increasing a civil penalty for fishing in state waters during a federally imposed moratorium; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply. However, CBO estimates that any new receipts would total less than \$500,000 a year. The legislation contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (UMRA), and would not impose any costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

#### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 1658 is shown in the following table.

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
<b>SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>						
Spending Under Current Law						
Budget Authority <sup>a</sup>	1	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	1	0	0	0	0	0
Proposed Changes						
Authorization Level	0	1	1	1	0	0
Estimated Outlays	0	1	1	1	0	0
Spending Under H.R. 1658						
Authorization Level <sup>a</sup>	1	1	1	1	0	0
Estimated Outlays	1	1	1	1	0	0

a. The 1997 level is the amount appropriated for that year.

The costs of the act fall within budget function 300 (natural resources).

## BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For purposes of this estimate, CBO assumes that all amounts authorized by H.R. 1658 would be appropriated for each fiscal year and that outlays would follow historical spending patterns for the authorized programs.

H.R. 1658 would increase from \$1,000 per violation to \$100,000 the penalty for fishing for striped bass in state waters when a federal moratorium is in effect. CBO expects that any collections from this penalty would total less than \$500,000 a year because federal moratoriums are rarely imposed. (Since the authority was first provided in 1984, a federal moratorium on fishing for striped bass in state waters has been imposed only once, for a six-day period in 1990 in New Jersey.) The act would maintain the current system of penalties for violating federal regulations governing fishing in federal waters.

## PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS

Section 252 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 sets up pay-as-you-go procedures for legislation affecting direct spending or receipts. H.R. 1658's

provision increasing penalties for striped bass fishing in state waters during a moratorium could affect receipts, but CBO estimates that the amount of any new receipts would not be significant.

### **ESTIMATED IMPACT ON STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS**

H.R. 1658 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 1658 would benefit the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission by providing access to federal funds that the act authorizes to be appropriated (\$1.05 million per year for fiscal years 1998-2000). The commission could receive some of these funds under cooperative agreements with federal agencies.

### **ESTIMATED IMPACT ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR**

The legislation would impose no new private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

### **PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE**

On July 7, 1997, CBO provided a cost estimate for H.R. 1658, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on June 25, 1997. The two versions of H.R. 1658 are nearly identical, and the estimated costs of the two versions are the same.

### **ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:**

Federal Costs: Gary Brown

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Marjorie Miller

### **ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:**

Robert A. Sunshine

Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis